

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 247702
ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 SS-14 DODE-00 SP-02 NSCE-00
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O 282344Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 247702

LIMDIS FOR AMBASSADOR LANE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE, US

SUBJECT: US-SAUDI SUPPORT FOR NORTH YEMEN

REFS: (A) SECTO 10038 (NOTAL); (B) SANA 4780; (C) SANA 4781;
(D) SANA 4803; (E) JIDDA 6920; (F) STATE 198372

1. WITH SALIH'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE IMPACT PACKAGE AND OUR
AGREEMENT WITH THE SAG ON THE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT, WE NOW
FACE THE MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF PUTTING THE PROGRAM INTO
ACTION AND MAKING IT WORK. WE AGREE COMPLETELY WITH
NECESSITY OF DIRECT USG-YARG RELATIONSHIP AND HAVE, FOR
THAT REASON, AGREED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A US SECURITY
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ASSISTANCE OFFICE IN SANA. IT IS OUR INTENTION AND UNDER-
STANDING THAT THIS OFFICE, UNDER YOUR DIRECTION, WOULD
SERVE AS PRINCIPLE CONTACT WITH YARG ON ALL MATTERS RE-
LATING TO PROGRAM AND WOULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH APPROPRIATE
YARG OFFICIALS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AT ALL LEVELS. WE
LEAVE IT TO YOU ON TIMING AND MODE OF RAISING ESTABLISHMENT
OF OFFICE WITH YARG. NO FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL

YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON SIZE, STAFFING AND TITLE OF ORGANIZATION RECEIVED. WE ENVISION COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH SAG ALONG LINES PARA 2 AND 4 REF (F), RECOGNIZING

CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH SAUDIS IN SANA AND SAG VIA EMBASSY JIDDA AND USMTM ESSENTIAL IF PROGRAM IS TO WORK SMOOTHLY.

2. WE NOTE THAT SOME PROBLEMS THAT HAVE INHIBITED PROGRAM IN PAST ARE NOT YET FULLY BEHIND US. SAUDI MTM IN SANA RELUCTANCE TO PERMIT OUR DIRECT CONTACT WITH YEMEN ARMED FORCES AND SAG REQUEST THAT IT REVIEW AND APPROVE SCOPE CHANGE TO VULCAN CASE BEFORE YARG AMBASSADOR HERE MAY SIGN REVISED LOA ARE, WE ASSUME, RESULT OF HIGH-LEVEL MODA POLICY DECISIONS NOT YET HAVING FILTERED DOWN TO LOWER LEVELS.

3. WE SEE ADVANTAGES TO YOUR PARTICIPATING IN KABBANI'S PRESENTATION TO SALIH ON THE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT, IN ORDER TO SET THE POLITICAL TONE AND TO REINFORCE TO THE YARG (AND SAG) USG ROLE IN PROGRAM. HOWEVER, WE DEFER TO YOUR JUDGMENT ON THIS ISSUE.

4. FOR JIDDA: RE REF (E): WE NEED CLEAR INDICATION SAG ACCEPTS OUR PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES, INCLUDING AGREEMENT BY SAG THAT WE MAY NOW PROCEED WITH DIRECT NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES FROM YARG TO USG. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE THIS AND ISSUES NOTED PARA 2 ABOVE WITH APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL SAG OFFICIALS AT EARLIEST
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OPPORTUNITY SO WE MAY BEGIN AIRLIFT IN TIMELY MANNER AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM IN SANA. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE TEXT OF SULTAN LETTER TO SALIH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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